



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
City of Stamford

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**Stamford Announces Extensive Preventative Measures Addressing COVID-19**

STAMFORD, Conn. — Mayor David Martin announced extensive preventative measures and emergency preparedness in response to the continued spread of COVID-19 virus in the United States (commonly referred to as “the coronavirus”). At this time, no cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the City of Stamford or the State of Connecticut.

“A storm is coming in the form of this flu-like disease, COVID-19,” said Mayor David Martin. “We hope this storm will blow itself out, but we clearly have an emerging emergency situation. There is a lot of uncertainty about the exact nature of this virus, but we know enough to take it seriously and to take action now.”

Mayor Martin met with public health officials and City department heads throughout the week and discussed optimal prevention measures. Effective Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, the City of Stamford will implement the following preventative measures for City-owned buildings, including the Stamford Government Center:

- Buildings have been equipped with hand sanitizer stations at their entrances and at elevator lobbies with instructions on proper use of hand sanitizer.
- Residents and staff are instructed to use hand sanitizer prior to entering a public building. This policy will be enforced by onsite security personnel.
- Signage has been posted in public bathrooms with instructions of proper hand-washing standards. Residents should use soap and water for 20 seconds, and increase the frequency of hand-washing, especially before eating, after sneezing, coughing, or blowing your nose.
- Building entrances have signage instructing visitors presenting with symptoms to delay visiting the building until symptoms go away and to immediately contact their medical provider.
- All signage has been posted in English and Spanish.

- City employees who report to work with acute respiratory illness symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath) or who become sick during the work day will be sent home until they are free of fever and any other symptoms for at least 24 hours.

In addition to these public-facing measures, Mayor David Martin has requested a \$250,000 appropriation from Stamford's Boards of Finance and Representatives to fund additional expenses necessary for these preventative measures. The City has coordinated with janitorial staff for additional cleaning of all City buildings, including Stamford Public Schools. Cleaning crews will prioritize sanitization of high-touch areas, specifically doorknobs, hand railings, doors, and other surfaces or items that are often used by many individuals per day.

These measures are in addition to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's general prevention guidelines](#), including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- The CDC **does not recommend** people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
  - Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).

The Department of Health recommends residents get the flu vaccine. Although it will not prevent transmission of COVID-19, it reduces the risk of a resident getting the flu and COVID-19. The City of Stamford's Department of Health will be giving free flu vaccines on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Stamford Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, 6<sup>th</sup> floor.

Although there are no reported cases of COVID-19 in Stamford or Connecticut, Stamford's Department of Health has instituted an early detection system for COVID-19 and is conducting case investigations as needed. The City's Department of Health has activated Stamford's Incident Command System, a management system designed to streamline and coordinate communication across multiple departments in the event of emergencies.

Stamford Public Schools have disseminated CDC prevention guidelines to parents and staff. International travel for school trips to high-risk countries have been canceled, including Board of Education-sponsored international study-abroad trips. Schools are strongly encouraging students

of all ages to wash hands frequently, especially before meals. Handwashing is monitored by school staff and will adapt as needed to assure students have time to properly wash hands.

The Offices of Public Safety and Emergency Management continue to coordinate with community organizations, faith-based organizations, and schools to provide guidance for prevention measures. Emergency Management is closely monitoring supply chain demands to identify and mitigate impacts on the City of Stamford, as well as tracking agency resource requests while working with the Department of Health, state, and federal partners to prioritize and coordinate resource requests as necessary.

City staff are working with the Stamford Chamber of Commerce and the Fairfield Business Council to communicate information to business owners on how to prepare for potentially decreased business activity as the public prepares for this virus, as well as providing guidance for when to send employees home sick.

Currently the City believes there is no cause to consider closing public buildings or schools. The City of Stamford will communicate if that assessment changes as this situation develops. Stamford's community has not faced this exact type of threat before and residents should be prepared for new challenges requiring new responses that may include closing transportation, businesses, schools, or extended period with limited access to public buildings.

All information about the status of COVID-19 in the City of Stamford can be found on the City's website at <http://www.stamfordct.gov/covid19>. Residents can also call the Office of Public Safety's hotline at 203.977.8840 for a recorded message updated daily on the status of COVID-19 in Stamford.

Questions relating to persons suspected of having COVID-19, or for questions about COVID-19 testing can be directed to the Department of Health at 203.977.4398 during business hours or 203.977.555 after business hours.

Questions relating to schools can be directed to 203.977.4378.

Questions relating to restaurants, hotels, motels, rooming house, or pools can be directed to 203.977.4363.

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